

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present Amendment is responsive to the non-final Office Action mailed June 30, 2008, in the above-identified application.

Claim 19 is now canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Further, new claims 22-30 are added. Therefore, claims 11-18 and 20-30 are the claims currently presented for examination in the present application.

Claims 11, 16, 18 and 20 are amended to clarify features recited thereby. Further, claim 15 is amended so as to conform it more closely to U.S. patent practice style. These amendments are fully supported by applicant's disclosure. For example, with respect to the feature that the elastic part is positioned between the circular outside periphery of the hub and the circular inside periphery of the peripheral transmission part, see any of Figs. 1-7 illustrating the inventive wheel with the circular outside periphery of the hub, the circular inside periphery of the peripheral transmission part and the elastic part positioned in between.

Objection to the Drawings

The Drawings are objected to on the ground that they fail to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims, on the ground that the term "part of a clutch" recited in claim 19 is not illustrated.

Figs. 4 and 5 of the Drawings are believed to illustrate "part of a clutch." However, in the interest of expediting prosecution of the present application, claim 19 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, the objection is moot.

Rejection of Claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite on the ground that it is unclear how the gear is integrated into a clutch.

Claim 19 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, the rejection is moot.

Rejection of Claims 1-18, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-18, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Moody, U.S. Patent No. 5,927,149. Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 11, 18 and 20 require a wheel including a hub with a circular outside periphery, a

peripheral transmission part with a circular inside periphery around the hub, and an elastic part positioned between the circular outside periphery of the hub and the circular inside periphery of the peripheral transmission part.

Moody discloses a high-torque quiet gear construction in which an elastomeric member is located in the space formed between the hub and the ring member, such that the elastomeric member is compressed when torque is applied to the hub in order to reduce shear loads on the adhesive bonds which hold the elastomeric member to the hub and the ring member (Moody, Abstract). Moody discloses that an inner periphery of the outer ring member 14 which meets the elastomeric member 16 is star shaped with circumferentially spaced teeth 26 of outer ring 14 interacting via the elastomeric member 16 with circumferentially spaced arms 22 of the hub 12 (Moody, column 3, lines 6-9; Fig. 1). Further, Moody discloses that the elastomeric member 16 is received in the space formed by the arms of the spaced hub 12 and the teeth of the ring member 14 so as to form a resilient connection between the hub 12 and the ring member 14 (Moody, column 3, lines 16-19).

Moody does not disclose or suggest a wheel including a hub with a circular outside periphery, a peripheral transmission part with a circular inside periphery around the hub, and an elastic part positioned between the circular outside periphery of the hub and the circular inside periphery of the peripheral transmission part, as required by claims 11, 18 and 20. More generally, Moody does not address or disclose the problem or the solutions to the problem explained at paragraph 2 of applicant's disclosure, namely, providing elasticity at the center of the wheel allowing it to be shifted without changing the function or performance of the wheel as a whole. Moody's elastomeric member is received in the space formed between the hub and the ring member in order to place the elastomeric member in compression when torque is applied to the hub, thus the deformation has to do with the relative rotation between the hub and the ring member, but not in shifting of any rotation axis with respect to a rotation axis of the hub or a rotation axis of the peripheral transmission part. Thus, Moody is not directed to the problems recognized by applicant's disclosure and solved by the recitations of an aspect of the invention as claimed in claims 11, 18 and 20.

Further, Moody emphasizes the importance of the overlapping circumferentially spaced arms 22 of hub 12 and the circumferentially spaced teeth 26 of outer ring 14 to make sure that the

loads transmitted through the gear 10 put the elastomeric member 16 in compression rather than causing it to shear (Moody, column 3, lines 37-39). Thus, Moody actually teaches away from applicant's disclosure of circular outside and inside peripheries for the hub and the peripheral transmission part, respectively, as required by claims 11, 18 and 20. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that applicant's invention as claimed in claims 11, 18 and 20 would not have been obvious from Moody.

Claims 12-17 depend from claim 11, and claim 21 depends from claim 20. Accordingly, claims 12-17 and 21 are patentably distinguishable over the cited art for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims. Claims 1-10 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and therefore, the rejection is moot with regard to these claims.

Rejection of Claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious from Ballew et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0185353 in view of Moody.

Since claim 19 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, this rejection is moot.

New Claims

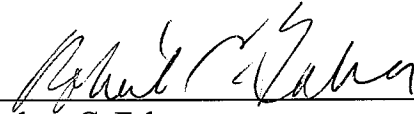
New claims 22-30 are added so as more fully to claim patentable aspects of applicant's invention. These new claims are fully supported by applicant's disclosure. MPEP § 608 specifies that applicant may rely for disclosure upon the Specification with original claims and Drawings as filed (MPEP § 608, paraphrased, underline added). Figs. 1 and 3-9 illustrate that the hub comprises a substantially circular outside periphery and the transmission part comprises a substantially circular inside periphery, and that between the circular outside periphery of the hub and the circular inside periphery of the transmission part is positioned the elastic part. These figures also clearly illustrate that a difference between the radii of the inside periphery of the transmission part and the outside periphery of the hub represents a substantial part of the overall radius of the wheel.

New claims 22-28 depend from claim 11, and claims 29 and 30 depend from claims 18 and 20, respectively, and therefore, new claims 22-30 are patentably distinguishable over the cited art for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims.

In view of the foregoing discussion, withdrawal of the objections and the rejections and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING
SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH
THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE EFS
FILING SYSTEM ON November 25, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,



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